

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)

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Summary

Dependents' Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans killed, disabled, or who went missing in the line of duty. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

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Quick Guide: How to apply

1. Make sure that your selected program is approved for VA training/education. If you are not clear on this point, VA will inform you and the school or company about the requirements.
2. Obtain and complete VA Form 22-5490.
3. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train. If you are a son or daughter under legal age a parent or guardian must sign the application.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is eligible to receive Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance?

- A. You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:
- A Veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
 - A Veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence.
 - A Servicemember missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
 - A Servicemember forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

- A Servicemember who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective December 23, 2006.

Q. What is the period for eligibility?

- A. Dependent Sons or Daughters who wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. If a dependent is in the Armed Forces, they may not receive this benefit while on active duty. To pursue training after military service, dependent's discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend the period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot generally go beyond dependent's 31st birthday, there are some exceptions.

For a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds them eligible or from the date of death of the Veteran. If the VA rated the Veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of three years from discharge a spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating. This change is effective October 10, 2008 and no benefits may be paid for any training taken prior to that date.

For surviving spouses (spouses of Servicemembers who died on active duty), benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

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Links

- [ARNG Education Home Page](#)
This comprehensive website serves as the premier source for education, incentives, and employment services information as it applies to Army National Guard Soldiers.
- [Department of Veterans Affairs - Survivor and Eligible Dependents Webpage](#)
This site contains pertinent information regarding Survivors and Eligible Dependents and the education benefits that they may receive. These benefits include DEA.

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References

Documents and Forms

- [ARNG Education Benefits Brochure](#)
- [ARNG Education Benefits Handbook July 2010](#)
- [VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits](#)

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Point of Contact

- ARNG Education Support Center
Email: esc@pec.ngb.army.mil
- VA Regional Office
Phone: 1-888-442-4551

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